

Rockville Environment Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, April 12, 2011

At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners: John Becker, Steve Cardon, Julie Palakovich-Carr, Kris Dighe, Anne Goodman, Beri Kravitz and Donna Vincent Roa.

Absent: Christine Davidson-McCord and David Zbarsky.

Guests: Fred Samadani, Resident

Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:30 pm by Chair Dighe

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 8, 2011 meeting were reviewed and one correction was identified. Cardon moved and Goodman seconded approval. The Commission approved the minutes 6-0-0 (One Commissioner arrived after this vote was taken).

Environmental Excellence Award Nominee Evaluations

The Commission considered action on the following three award nominations, two of which had been tabled last month:

- Nomination for the *Youth Environmental Program at Rockville High School* (i.e., rain garden, conservation landscaping, native plants, runoff reduction). Becker moved approval and Roa seconded. Approved 7-0-0.
- *Nomination for the Solar Array on the Rockville Ice Arena*. Recipients include the Rockville Blades L.L.C., Standard Solar Inc., The Marven Group L.L.C., and the Montgomery Youth Hockey Association. Goodman moved and Becker seconded approval. Approved 7-0-0.
- *Backyard Habitat Team Award*. There was discussion about adding former City employee Audra Lew and current City employee Heather Gewandter to the previously approved award team. Cardon moved and Becker seconded adding Audra Lew. Approved 5-2-0. Cardon moved and Becker seconded adding Gewandter. Failed 3-4-0 due to Gewandter's status as an existing employee. However, Roa moved and Palakovich-Carr seconded that Gewandter be given a letter of accommodation from the Commission for her efforts. Approved 7-0-0.
- Commissioners are invited to the Awards Presentation on Monday, May 9 at 7:15 pm.

Deer Management Task Force

No report due to the absence of Davidson-McCord.

Multi-City Environmental Board Meeting

Several Commissioners attended this April 6 meeting hosted by Gaithersburg. Rockville's environmental programs seem to be well ahead of its peer communities. Hyattsville has created a web page for other participating communities. The next meeting is scheduled for October 25 and will be hosted by Greenbelt.

Science Day Planning

The Commission participated in Science Day at Montgomery College. The crowd was strong and steady. The coloring sheets worked well. The rainbarrel demo was also effective. The Commission should invest in a quieter water pump if possible. Several volunteers signed up for committees. Hosmer volunteered to take most of the materials home. Kravitz will get these from her next week. Cardon has the watershed model and rainbarrel.

Hometown Holidays Planning

The Commission participation will be similar to Science Day. Bill Nye *the Science Guy* was contacted but commands approximately \$40,000 for his participation. The idea was dropped for this year. Roa's vocal group may be willing to perform. She will ask and get back to the Commission. The Commission will also raffle off a rain barrel at the end of the day. Kravitz moved and Roa seconded the purchase of 600-800 (4x6) recycling magnets for \$1000. These will be given out at the event. Approved 7-0-0.

Committee Reports

Watershed Protection

- Palakovich-Carr reminded Commissioners that a clean up of its adopted stream (Maryvale Creek) is scheduled for Saturday, April 30 (9:30 am).
- The Committee met on March 22 and reviewed and commented on the Draft Assessment of Cabin John Creek. Environmental Management is targeting June 20 as the date for getting the final report to the Mayor and Council.
- Members of the Committee are planning on assisting with the *Save Our Streams* Volunteer Water Monitoring event on Saturday, April 16.
- The next Watershed Committee meeting is May 22 at 7:15 pm.

Sustainable Development and Energy

- Due to the absence of Davidson McCord, there was no report.

Outreach and Education

- There was no report due to the activities surrounding Science Day.
- Commissioners did ask if the City was set up to track hits on the Rockville Recycling web page. Charles will follow up.

Environmental Management Report

Charles updated Commissioners on the historic designation initiative for Civic Park. Designation would effect potential energy retrofit options for the buildings in the park. He also briefly discussed Rockville's new brand logo and tag line that will appear on all new outreach materials. There was also a brief discussion about coordinating the adoption of a graffiti ordinance with the City's property code enforcement personnel. Such an effort would not likely begin until late summer or early fall. Finally, Charles reminded the Commissioners about *Spring Fest* on April 30 and the *National Pharmaceutical Take Back Day* Initiative on the same day.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm by unanimous acclamation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 7:30 pm** at **Rockville's City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850**

Follow Up/Action Items:

Charles will determine if the City is tracking hits on its recycling page and report back.